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the parts are in a normal condition. It is, therefore, greatly to be desired that zoologists in our different zoological districts would give attention to the anatomical structure of the species which inhabit their own districts. Eventually, in this way, there may be built up a correct knowledge of the habits and anatomy of this interesting family, of which we have a somewhat comparatively correct diagnosis of the exo-skeleton.

Mr. Lea also mentioned that, in connexion with this subject, he had paid much attention to the power of vision in the family *Unionidæ*, since his communication on the subject, in February, 1857. He found the following species always to close the anal opening, and to withdraw the papillæ of the branchial opening when the light was suddenly intercepted, viz :

Unio cylindricus, Say.
Unio rubiginosus, Lea.
Unio subrotundus, Lea.
Unio pyramidatus, Lea.
Unio obscurus, Lea.
Unio pustulosus, Lea.
Unio Æsopus, Green.
Anodonta imbecilis, Say.

Dr. J. A. Meigs read some remarks of Mr. Joseph Barnard Davis, reviewing the method of measurement, as a diagnostic means of distinguishing human races, adopted by Drs. Schertzer and Schwarz, in the circumnavigatory expedition of the Austrian vessel Novara.

The number of the Proceedings of the Academy for November was laid on the table.

December 13th.

Dr. RUSCHENBERGER in the Chair.

Thirty-three members present.

A paper was read, entitled, "Reflections upon the nature of the temporary star of the year 1572, an application of the nebular hypothesis, by Alexander Wilcocks, M.D.," and was referred to a committee.

The decease of Dr. H. C. Caldwell, late a member of the Academy, was announced : he died at Lewisburg, Va., Dec. 1st., aged 28 years.

December 20th.

Mr. LEA, President in the Chair.

Forty-five members present.

Papers were presented for publication in the Journal, entitled, "Descriptions of New Cretaceous and Eocene Shells of Mississippi and Alabama, also, with Notes on Eocene Fossil Shells, by T. A. Conrad."

"Descriptions of Exotic Unionidæ, by Isaac Lea."

And were referred to a committee.

The following were presented for publication in the Proceedings :—

"Notice of the Shells collected by Mr. J. Xantus, at Cape San Lucas, by P. P. Carpenter."

[Dec.